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EDITORIAL COMMENT



THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS

WHILE it is not possible for us to give before the congress the complete program for the nursing session, we know that the following group of women are to present papers: Mrs. R. Burgess, of the Gaylord Farm Sanatorium in Connecticut, will write on "Sanatorium Atmosphere,—Moral and Cheerful"; Miss Frances Hostetter, of the Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, and Miss Ida Cannon, of Boston, "The Tuberculosis Class"; Miss Louie Croft Boyd, of Denver, "The National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives"; Miss Eliza Thayer Patterson, of the Vanderbilt Clinic, New York, "Disinfection in Tenement Houses"; Miss M. E. Lent, Baltimore, "The True Function of the Tuberculosis Nurse"; Miss LaMotte, of Baltimore, "The Unteachable Consumptive"; Miss Florence R. Smithwick, of Denver, "The Attitude of the Modern District Nurse to Tuberculosis"; Miss Mabel Jacques, of Philadelphia, "Home Occupations in Families of Consumptives and Possible Dangers to the Public"; Miss Bertha L. Stark, of Pittsburgh, "Anti-Tuberculosis Work in the Pittsburgh Public Schools"; Miss Anne K. Sutton, superintendent of Phipps Institute, "The Henry Phipps Institute Training School for Nurses"; Mrs. M. E. Hoffman, a Phipps nurse, "The Instruction of the Patient in Personal Hygiene"; Mrs. Van Wagner, "Opportunities in Tenement House Inspection for Teaching in Tuberculous Families."

We have been informed that papers in the general sessions of the congress will be read by Mrs. Robb, Miss Damer, Miss Fulmer and Miss Wald.

There has never been an occasion in any great national movement when nurses have been granted the recognition that is being given in

connection with this congress. This is largely due to the efforts of Dr. John S. Fulton, secretary-general of the congress, who is most generous in his attitude toward nurses, idealizing them and even crediting them with more than they do, and who placed Miss Nutting on the central committee; to Miss Nutting herself, who was determined that nurses should have a distinguished place; and to Mr. Devine, who made the plan for the special session.

We have every assurance that there will be an interesting gathering of women engaged in this work, and in the matter of papers and discussions and interchange of experiences and helpful suggestions there is no question but that the nursing session will be a success.

The opportunity for hearing in the general sessions of the congress distinguished speakers from all parts of the world, is one that may not occur again in years and is worth some personal sacrifice for a nurse to bring about.

In order to prepare a valuable exhibit of the nurse's own share in the anti-tuberculosis movement, it is necessary that Miss Nutting and Miss Strong should have at least a thousand dollars. Dr. Fulton has sent broadly a circular letter appealing for funds for this special exhibit, but the suggestion has been made that individual nurses and nursing organizations shall be appealed to for aid in making this exhibit a success. Many women who cannot attend the meeting can show their interest by a contribution, be it ever so small. Any nurse or patient who has had in her family circle a victim of tuberculosis should be interested to contribute a dollar to this great educational movement, and the nursing organizations should be interested to aid, if only in sums equally small. While a thousand dollars seems a large amount when considered in bulk, it will not mean much when distributed among the thousands of nurses and their patients who may have reason to be interested in this special feature of the convention. Such contributions should be sent to Miss Isabel Strong, 2001 I Street, Washington, D. C., and applications for accommodations during the convention should be addressed to Mrs. Eustis at the same address. The congress is to be in session from September 28 to October 3, and the nurses' session is to be held on October 1.

Tuberculosis camps have recently been put in operation in Buffalo and in Rochester, N. Y. We know that the nurses' interest in both of these places has added greatly to their success. The camp in Rochester has been organized by a committee from the Public Health Association, with Miss S. F. Palmer as chairman.

In a letter from Miss Nutting, who is spending her vacation in Newfoundland, we hear of a tuberculosis convention which has been

organized there for the purpose of bringing together two hundred and fifty school teachers that they may be instructed in the cause and prevention of tuberculosis and in turn pass on this knowledge to their pupils.

In Detroit, a most vigorous and interesting campaign has been waged in which all the citizens of all classes have been interested coöperators. As a result of one special day's work in June, the funds of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society were raised from ten dollars to ten thousand dollars. This money is placed in the hands of a committee of seven of which Mrs. L. E. Gretter, head of the Visiting Nurse Association, is chairman, and is to be largely used in the sending of visiting nurses among tuberculosis patients. The city is divided into districts for this work and will be thoroughly canvassed. In addition, a vigorous "anti-spit" crusade is being waged.

THE WORK FOR BABIES IN CLEVELAND

THE Babies' Dispensary in Cleveland is the first of its kind in America. Similar work may have been done by others, but none have followed the prophylactic work throughout the entire year as this has done from the start. It sometimes happens, unfortunately, that milk stations and dispensaries, started with the best motives and run with immense enthusiasm, fail to accomplish all the good they might because the workers are not sufficiently informed and instructed as to the best methods. Sometimes, in a large city, several stations under one central head will be operated without sufficient coöperation and will differ greatly in usefulness. Of two stations in similar districts, one will be crowded with applicants and the other will be ministering to very few, because of the difference of method in getting hold of the people for whom the charity was organized.

Before starting the work in Cleveland a thorough investigation was made of the methods employed in similar work, both here and abroad, and everything was thought out ahead as far as possible, down to such small details as having the chairs in the waiting rooms supplied with rods at the back, on which the baby's clothes could be hung when it was undressed for examination. The result of this forethought is that the work has not been experimental and no money has been lost in learning how.

Those who have much to do with public service sometimes grow sick at heart in seeing public or charitable funds wasted through ignorance, or work falling to the ground because of personal friction between those who should be losing all thought of self in the general good.

PLANS FOR A GRADED REGISTRY

THE plan given on another page, which Miss Ericksen has so carefully worked out, was presented to some extent in a discussion by Mrs. Fournier, to whom she refers, so long ago as the Detroit meeting of the Associated Alumnæ. Theoretically, it would be a very easy solution of the situation, but practically the plan seems impossible for the reason that nurses do not control the situation in regard to their own affairs, either in registries or in state registration. Both commercial and political influences are factors that we have to contend with, and until we are more strongly united and have better control of our own affairs we could not put such a plan in operation. The difficulty that has been met on every hand in securing voluntary registration of graduates in those states where registration laws are in effect, shows the obstacles that would be met in endeavoring to control the non-graduate, unless she is compelled to register in order to practice.

The plan is one worthy of consideration and discussion and serious thought, and is one which we can work toward, but all the difficulties which it would bring with it, and its futility without legal compulsion, would make it seem to us impracticable at the present time.

MISS ROGERS' PAPER

MISS ROGERS' report on school nursing, given at the San Francisco meeting, and reproduced in this issue, while in some respects a repetition of what has been given before, shows the effectiveness of the plan of organization adopted by the New York Board of Health for the school work, and also the practical working results in the schools after six years of steady application of the principle. In those localities where school nursing is being agitated her paper will be found a valuable guide.

THE JOURNAL'S ATTITUDE ON THE SUFFRAGE QUESTION

THE letters which are appearing in the JOURNAL, and which come to the editors personally, on the suffrage question, are evidence of a misunderstanding of the JOURNAL'S position in this matter. This magazine is a professional journal, devoted to the interests of nursing. On every nursing subject it has a definite policy. On all other broad questions its attitude is neutral. Among so many thousand women as go to make up the nursing body there is great diversity of opinion on the suffrage

question, the members of one group being extreme in their support of it, others being just as extreme in their opposition to it, and still a third group taking a more moderate ground, the editor-in-chief being among the last.

Our correspondence department is open to a free expression of opinion, but it must be understood that the JOURNAL'S policy, editorially, must of necessity remain neutral.

WORK FOR ORGANIZATIONS

BEFORE another month our affiliated organizations will have outlined their active work for the winter. October will see state, county, and alumnae associations coming into line with programs of greater or less value according to the preparation of those trusted with the executive guidance of the societies.

There has never been a time when the nursing field has seemed more quiet, a dangerous condition if vigilance is lessened and indifference is allowed to take the place of watchfulness and enthusiasm. But lack of a broader public activity should be turned to account in a more careful administration of the affairs of each separate organization for a sort of family housecleaning.

In the state association, where laws for registration are already in force, the manner in which they are being administered should be carefully studied. The state association that has secured the passage of a law must never for an instant relinquish its right of protest if it finds that political or commercial interests are interfering with its highest and best execution.

Now is the time for a thorough going over of rules and by-laws and of forming new plans that shall be of benefit to those states less fortunate than themselves.

The personnel of the county and alumnae societies should be carefully reviewed. Women of doubtful conduct who may have been allowed to slip in under pressure of the excitement of outside interests should be investigated, disciplined, or dismissed. Only by maintaining a clean membership roll in the local associations can our state and national associations hope to steadily progress. This is a disagreeable duty which must periodically be performed for the preservation of our professional standards. For the sins or indiscretions of a few, the whole nursing body suffers, and the remedy lies with the organizations.

This period of quiescence is also a time when all the associations should devote some part of every meeting to strictly post-graduate study.

The suggestion made in these pages some months ago that the state examination questions be used as a competitive contest, after the order of the old time spelling matches, would freshen up the methods of many a nurse who has been too busy or indifferent to give much time to study, and would also prove an amusing entertainment for half an hour. Moreover, the practical value of the questions would be demonstrated in a way to make criticism of them by the associations of great help to the examiners.

Delegates to the national and state associations should be chosen early in the year and instructed in subjects of business or professional discussion that are likely to arise. The Associated Alumnae is beginning early on its program and asks in this number of the JOURNAL for suggestions. If each affiliated association would send to the chairman of the Program Committee one suggestion, the subjects to be considered would represent broader interests.

Closer conference of the superintendents of nurses in the large centres and a teachers' auxiliary in every state society would give much force to educational progress.

All of these suggestions are taken from work already being done, and we do not offer them as original, but of such practical value that their adoption is recommended.

We have always advocated a broad division of executive responsibility in all organization life. With a monopoly of office, interest dwindles, and personal dictation creeps in. No one group of women and no one section of the country should be permitted to rule for too long a time, even when such groups are the willing workers of the association.

Popular subjects such as local option, suffrage, the Emanuel Church movement, tuberculosis, venereal prophylaxis, and school nursing, which appeal to nurses as citizens should at this time, more than ever before, have a place in the winter's program.

THE END OF A YEAR

WITH this issue the JOURNAL closes its eighth volume and enters upon the coming year practically the property of the Associated Alumnae. Professionally, the JOURNAL has never been in such splendid condition as at this time. Its influence is broader, it is in closer touch with many more lines of work, the support of the profession is more cordially expressed, and its subscription list is larger.

We have assurance that our efforts in behalf of the Red Cross are bringing very material results to that society in more general enrollment

of nurses. The correspondence which is developing in regard to visiting nurse work shows that the JOURNAL is being depended upon more and more in the establishment and conduct of this line of work. The missionary department has been one of the most successful of our new ventures and will be continued on practically the same lines. Through it we have come to realize the greater value of our JOURNAL to nurses living in foreign lands, separated from the professional inspiration which is within such easy reach of those who stay at home.

The two series of articles on diet have created great interest. Miss Wheeler's will be discontinued for the present, and taken up again later. After completing the subject of foods, she will give us some papers on general chemistry to meet the needs of the teaching body, if we have some assurance from instructors of nurses that the subject is desired. Miss Hamman's articles on "Housekeeping for Two" will be continued. Her recipes all have practical value. They have been tested as they came along by a member of the JOURNAL staff and, we doubt not, by many of its readers. Presented without frills, they are absolutely accurate and satisfactory.

NEW LINES OF WORK

Ever since the JOURNAL came into existence it has acted as a free agency for the nurses of the country for almost every need that the profession requires. One of the heaviest duties in connection with it has been to take care of an immense correspondence covering every subject, from the scores of problems of the private nurse to state registration, and the whole circle of the educational side of hospitals and training schools, positions, discipline, courses of study, text-books, books of reference, etc.

It has been decided to add two definite departments to the JOURNAL's already broad field of usefulness. The first is a JOURNAL directory for hospitals and nurses, through which the business manager will, if the response is what is expected, be in a position to place hospitals which need, into communication with nurses who are seeking, positions. The fee must depend upon the amount of time and labor involved in each instance, all such transactions being strictly confidential.

The second is the establishment of an agency for nursing books of all kinds. With the increasing number of text-books now used in different schools, requiring orders to be placed with half a dozen different publishers, the busy superintendent will find the filling of her orders greatly simplified by making up her list and sending it to the business office of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. If her instructions are clear, and the money order drawn to the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF

NURSING, she may be sure of prompt and efficient service. Circulars giving full information in regard to prices and methods of ordering can be obtained by writing to (Miss) M. E. P. Davis, care the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, 227 South Sixth Street, Philadelphia.

THE NEEDS OF THE COMING YEAR

One of the needs of the coming year is for more items of hospital and nursing news from all parts of the country. When a subscriber sees nothing from her section and wonders why the JOURNAL isn't interested in the news of her community, let her reflect that it does not depend upon newspapers for its items, that they must all be sent from reliable sources, and that she should immediately constitute herself the representative from her vicinity. Many a woman who feels that she hasn't the time or ability to write a scientific paper can render just as important service to her profession by sending such items.

The JOURNAL editors wish to express their special appreciation of the work of all of those subscribers who have been with them from the beginning, who have been loyal through all the experimental period, and who have been cordial as well as practical in their support. They welcome the new friends with the hope that they may become enrolled permanently in the ranks of the old ones, and they extend to all who have contributed in any way to the JOURNAL's success and support, the thanks which they are not always able to write personally.

